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ABSTRACT

This report draws on a recent survey--the 1997 National Survey of America's Families (NSAF)--to examine child care arrangements and expenses for working families with children under age 13 in the state of Mississippi. Key components of the project include a household survey, studies of policies in 13 states, and a database with information on all states and the District of Columbia. This report provides data on the types of child care arrangements families use, the number of arrangements they use, the hours children spend in child care, and the amount families spend on child care. The report begins by describing key facts related to child care in Mississippi and defining relevant terms. Findings regarding the types and number of child care arrangements and the hours spent in care are examined for children under 5 years of age. Findings on the numbers of school-age children in supervised arrangements, self-care, and parent/other care follow. Child care expenses are examined for all families overall and for two particular groups of families: those with older versus younger children, and families with different earnings levels. Costs in Mississippi are then compared to those nationwide. Findings of this report reveal that almost 60 percent of mothers with children under age 5 and more than two-thirds of mothers with school-age children are employed. More than 80 percent of

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children under age 5 with employed mothers are in some form of nonparental child care, with almost 60 percent in full-time care. More than half of 6- to 9-year- olds are in supervised arrangements, compared with slightly more than two-fifths of 10- to 12-year-olds. The use of self-care increases as children get older. Low-income families spend more than twice as much for child care as a percentage of their earnings as do higher-earning families. (KB)

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State Child Care Profile for Children with Employed Mothers: Mississippi

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State Profiles

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Assessing the New Federalism
An Urban Institute Program to Assess Changing Social Policies

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Assessing the New Federalism

Assessing the New Federalism is a multiyear Urban Institute project designed to analyze the devolution of responsibility for social programs from the federal government to the states. It focuses primarily on health care, income security, employment and training programs, and social services. Researchers monitor program changes and fiscal developments. Alan Weil is the project director. In collaboration with Child Trends, the project studies changes in family well-being. The project provides timely, nonpartisan information to inform public debate and to help state and local decisionmakers carry out their new responsibilities more effectively.

Key components of the project include a household survey, studies of policies in 13 states, and a database with information on all states and the District of Columbia. Publications and database are available free of charge on the Urban Institute's Web site: http://www.urban.org. This paper is one in a series of discussion papers analyzing information from these and other sources.

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STATE CHILD CARE PROFILE FOR CHILDREN WITH EMPLOYED MOTHERS[1]: MISSISSIPPI

Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families[2]

Child care is a critical issue for families, particularly for families with working parents. The large number of mothers in the workforce has made America's families more dependent on nonparental care and raised public awareness of early care and education as a subject of policy concern. In Mississippi, 64 percent of mothers with children younger than 13 were employed in 1997 (table 1). These parents must decide who will care for their children while they work.

This report[3] provides data on

- The types of child care arrangements families use
- The number of child care arrangements families use
- The hours children spend in child care
- The amount families spend on child care

These data reflect the choices families make, but not the extent to which these choices reflect parental preferences (e.g., whether families are using the care options they want) or parental constraints (e.g., whether they cannot find or afford options they prefer). Data tables 2-7 are at the end of the profile.

TABLE 1. Percentage of Employed Mothers in Mississippi and the United States, by Age of Child

	Percentage of Mothers Who Are Employed, by Age of Child	
	MS (%)	US (%)
Age of Child[4]		
Under 5	59	57
Between 6 and 12	67	66
Under 13	64	63

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Mississippi Key Facts

Child care in Mississippi for children younger than 5 with employed mothers

- Almost three out of five mothers with children under 5 are employed.
- More than four out of five children under 5 with employed mothers are in a form of nonparental child care such as center-based care, family child care, or relative care.
- Almost three out of five children under 5 are in full-time (35 hours or more per week) nonparental care.
- More than one-third of children under 5 who have an employed mother and who are in nonparental care are in more than one nonparental child care arrangement each week.

Child care in Mississippi for school-age children with employed mothers

- More than two-thirds of mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 12 are employed.
- As children get older, the percentage who are in a supervised arrangement as their primary arrangement decreases. More than half of 6- to 9-year-olds are in supervised arrangements, compared with slightly more than two-fifths of 10- to 12-year-olds.
- The use of self-care (children are alone or with a sibling under 13) increases as children get older. Fewer than one-tenth of 6- to 9-year-olds spend *any* time in self-care on a regular basis, compared with more than one-fifth of 10- to 12-year-olds.

Child care expenses in Mississippi for working families with at least one child under 13

- More than half of working families with children under 13 pay out-of-pocket for child care.
- Working families who pay for care spend almost 1 out of every 11 dollars of their earnings on child care.
- Of families who pay for care, those with earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or "low-earning families," spend approximately 1 out of every 8 dollars they earn on child care. These families spend more than twice as much as a percentage of their earnings than do "higher-earning families."

Definition of Terms

Types of Care:

Primary child care arrangement – the arrangement in which the child spends the greatest number of hours each week while the mother is at work.

The following are types of nonparental child care:

- *Center-based child care (only for age 4 and under)* – care in child care centers, Head Start, preschool, prekindergarten, and before- and after-school programs.
- *Before- and after-school programs (only for age 6 and older)* – programs designed to care for children before school starts or after school is over. These programs can also be located within schools, community centers, and youth development agencies. The survey did not specifically ask about sports, lessons, or other recreational activities that may sometimes be used as child care arrangements by parents.
- *Family child care* – care by a nonrelative in the provider's home.
- *Babysitter or nanny* – care by a nonrelative in the child's home.
- *Relative care* – care by a relative in either the child's or the provider's home.

In addition, the following are other types of child care:

- *Parent care (called parent care/other care for age 6 and older)* – care given to those children whose mother did not report a nonparental child care arrangement while she worked. This type of care could be provided by the other parent, the mother while she works, or a self-employed mother at home. For school-age children, this may also include enrichment activities such as lessons or sports. Because of the way data were collected in the National Survey of America's Families, these activities are not defined as child care in this profile.
- *Self-care* – regular amounts of time each week in which the child is not being supervised while the mother works. This includes time spent alone or with a sibling younger than 13.
- *Any hours in self-care* – children regularly spending some time in unsupervised settings each week, regardless of whether it is the primary arrangement (i.e., used for the greatest number of hours or while the mother is at work).

Income Groups:

- *Higher-income families* – families with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- *Low-income families* – families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (e.g., $25,258 for a family of two adults and one child in the United States in 1997).

CHILDREN UNDER 5[5]

Almost three out of five Mississippi mothers with children under 5 are employed (table 1). Consequently, many children in Mississippi spend at least some time in child care during the critical developmental years before they start school.

Type of Child Care Arrangements[6]

- More than four out of five children under 5 in Mississippi are in primary child care arrangements with someone other than a parent while their mothers are working (table 2).

- More than half of Mississippi's children under 5 are in group settings (38 percent in center-based care and 13 percent in family child care). In addition, almost one-third of the state's children under 5 are in relative care and relatively few are in the care of a babysitter or nanny. Slightly more than one-seventh are in parent care (figure 1).

    - Mississippi's children under 5 do not differ significantly from similar children nationwide in the use of center-based care and family child care.

    - Mississippi's children under 5 are more likely to be in relative care than their counterparts nationwide (32 percent compared with 23 percent).

    - Children under 5 in Mississippi are less likely to be in parent care (15 percent) and in the care of a babysitter or nanny (2 percent) than their counterparts nationwide (24 percent and 6 percent, respectively).

By age:

- Almost one-quarter of Mississippi's infants and toddlers are in center-based care and more than one-sixth are in family child care. In addition, almost two-fifths are in relative care and a small proportion are in the care of a babysitter or nanny. Almost one-fifth of the state's infants and toddlers are in parent care.

    - Mississippi infants and toddlers are more likely to be in relative care than their counterparts nationwide (38 percent compared with 27 percent), but they do not differ significantly from the United States as a whole in the use of other arrangements.

- Three-fifths of Mississippi's 3- and 4-year-olds are in center-based care and fewer than one-tenth are in family child care. In addition, more than one-fifth are in relative care, fewer than 1 percent are in the care of a babysitter or nanny, and one-tenth are in parent care.

    - Mississippi's 3- and 4-year-olds are more likely to be in center-based care than their counterparts nationwide (60 percent compared with 45 percent) and less likely to be in parent care (10 percent compared with 18 percent). In Mississippi, 3- and 4-year-olds do not differ significantly from similar children nationwide in the use of other arrangements.

- Mississippi's infants and toddlers are more likely to be in relative care (38 percent) and family child care (17 percent) than the state's 3- and 4-year-olds (21 percent and 8 percent, respectively). Mississippi's 3- and 4-year-olds, on the other hand, are more likely to be in center-based care than infants and toddlers (60 percent compared with 24 percent).

    - The differences between these two age groups in terms of the use of center-based and relative care reflect national patterns. However, Mississippi differs from the United States as a whole in that, nationally, there is no significant difference between these two groups in the use of family child care.

By income:

- More than one-third of Mississippi's low-income families are in center-based care and fewer than one-tenth are in family child care. In addition, more than two-fifths are in relative care, relatively few are in the care of a babysitter or nanny, and fewer than one-seventh are in parent care.

    - Low-income families in Mississippi are more likely to be in relative care (43 percent) and less likely to be in parent care (14 percent) than similar children nationwide (28 percent and 28 percent, respectively). These Mississippi children do not differ significantly from their counterparts nationwide in the use of other arrangements.

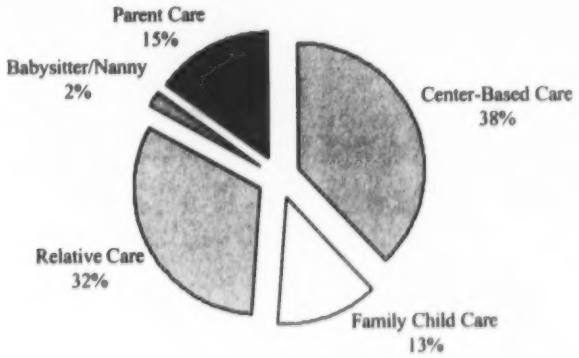
- More than two-fifths of Mississippi's higher-income children under 5 are in center-based care and more than one-sixth are in family child care. The remaining children are in relative care (21 percent), the care of a babysitter or nanny (3 percent), or parent care (16 percent).

    - The child care arrangement patterns for Mississippi's higher-income families are consistent with higher-income families in the United States as a whole.

- Mississippi's low-income children under 5 are more likely to be in relative care than the state's higher-income children under 5 (43 percent compared with 21 percent) and less likely to be in family child care (9 percent compared with 18 percent).

  - While the difference between income groups in use of relative care is consistent with national patterns, the difference in use of family child care is not seen nationally. In addition, United States low-income children under 5 are more likely to be in parent care and less likely to be in center-based care than higher-income children under 5, patterns not seen in Mississippi.

FIGURE 1. Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers in Mississippi, 1997



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Hours Spent in Care[7]

- In Mississippi, almost three out of five children under 5 are in full-time care (35 hours or more per week) (table 3).

- The percentage of Mississippi's children under 5 in full-time care increases to almost two-thirds when only mothers who are employed full time are considered.

- The use of full-time care for children under 5 is significantly higher in Mississippi than in the United States as a whole. Nationally, 41 percent of children under 5 are in full-time care and 52 percent are in full-time care when only mothers working full time are considered (figure 2).

By age:

- Mississippi's infants and toddlers are less likely to be in full-time care than 3- and 4-year-olds (54 percent compared with 67 percent), although nationally there is no difference between these age groups.

    - Mississippi's infants and toddlers are more likely to be in full-time care than their counterparts nationwide (54 percent compared with 39 percent).

    - Mississippi's 3- and 4-year-olds are more likely to be in full-time care than similar children nationwide (67 percent compared with 44 percent).

By income:

- Mississippi's low-income children under 5 are less likely to be in full-time care than higher-income children under 5 (49 percent compared with 68 percent). This differs from the national pattern in that, nationally, there is no difference between these income groups.

    - The use of full-time care by Mississippi's low-income children under 5 does not differ significantly from that of their counterparts in the United States as a whole (49 percent compared with 40 percent).

    - Higher-income children under 5 are more likely to be in full-time care than similar children in the United States as a whole (68 percent compared with 42 percent).

FIGURE 2. Children Under 5 in Full-Time Care with Employed Mothers in Mississippi and the United States, 1997

Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Note: Full-time care is 35 or more hours per week.

Number of Arrangements[6]

- More than a third of Mississippi's children under 5 in nonparental care are in multiple nonparental child care arrangements each week (26 percent in two arrangements and 9 percent in three or more arrangements) (table 4; figure 3).

    - The number of arrangements used each week by children under 5 in Mississippi is consistent with the number of arrangements used by children in the same age group nationwide.

By age:

- Among Mississippi's infants and toddlers in nonparental care, almost three-fourths are in one arrangement each week, slightly more than one-fifth are in two arrangements, and fewer than one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

    - The number of arrangements used by infants and toddlers in Mississippi is consistent with those of similar children nationwide.

- More than half of Mississippi's 3- and 4-year-olds are in one arrangement, slightly more than one-third are in two arrangements, and approximately one-eighth are in three or more arrangements.

    - The number of arrangements used by Mississippi's 3- and 4-year-olds is consistent with those of similar children nationwide.

- Mississippi's infants and toddlers are more likely to be in one nonparental arrangement each - and 4-year-olds (73 percent compared with 53 percent).

    - Nationally, the difference between the percentage of infants and toddlers and 3- and 4-year-olds in one arrangement each week is not significant. However, the difference nationwide between these two groups in the use of three or more arrangements is significant, a pattern not seen in Mississippi.

By income:

- In Mississippi, more than two-thirds of low-income children under 5 in nonparental care are in one arrangement per week, more than one-fifth are in two arrangements, and fewer than one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

    - The number of arrangements used by Mississippi's low-income children under 5 is consistent with those of similar children nationwide.

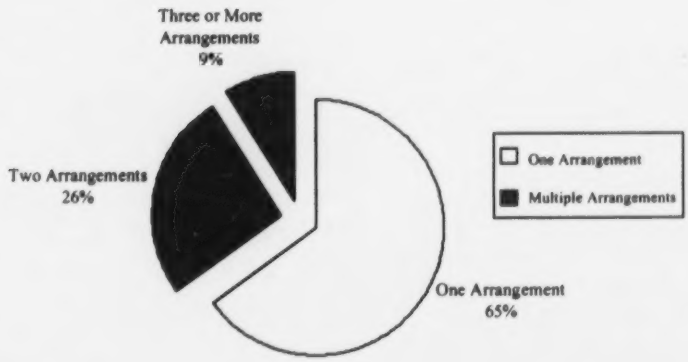
- Among Mississippi's higher-income children under 5 in nonparental care, three-fifths are in one arrangement each week, fewer than one-third are in two arrangements, and slightly fewer than one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

  - ➢ The number of arrangements used by higher-income children under 5 in Mississippi is consistent with those of similar children nationwide.

- No difference exists in the number of arrangements used by Mississippi's low- and higher-income children under 5.

  - ➢ The similarity between low- and higher-income children under 5 in Mississippi is consistent with national patterns for these income groups.

FIGURE 3. Number of Nonparental Arrangements for Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers in Mississippi, 1997*



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
*Children in nonparental care only.

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN[9]

Many children continue to need child care once they start school. More than two-thirds of Mississippi's mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 12 are employed (table 1). For those parents who cannot arrange work schedules around school, child care plays an important role in filling the gap between school and when a parent returns home from work. High quality before- and after-school programs can also provide school-age children with activities that will potentially enhance academic and social development (Posner and Vandell 1999). However, under some circumstances, unsupervised care can put children at risk of harm and poor physical, social, and intellectual development (Kerrebrock and Lewit 1999; Peterson 1989).

Supervised Arrangements

- In Mississippi, more than half of 6- to 9-year-olds are in one of the supervised primary care arrangements analyzed here while their mothers are working (table 5).
    - The types of care used by 6- to 9-year-olds in Mississippi and the United States as a whole are very different. Mississippi's 6- to 9-year-olds are less likely to be in before- and after-school programs (14 percent) and in the care of a nanny or babysitter (2 percent) than similar children nationwide (21 percent and 5 percent, respectively). These Mississippi children, however, are more likely to be in relative care than their counterparts nationwide (33 percent and 21 percent).
- More than two out of five 10- to 12-year-olds in Mississippi are in one of the supervised primary arrangements analyzed here while their mothers are working.
    - Mississippi's 10- to 12-year-olds are more likely to be in relative care than similar children nationwide (27 percent compared with 17 percent) and less likely to be in family child care (1 percent compared with 5 percent).
- Mississippi's children are less likely to use the types of supervised care examined here as they get older (figure 4).

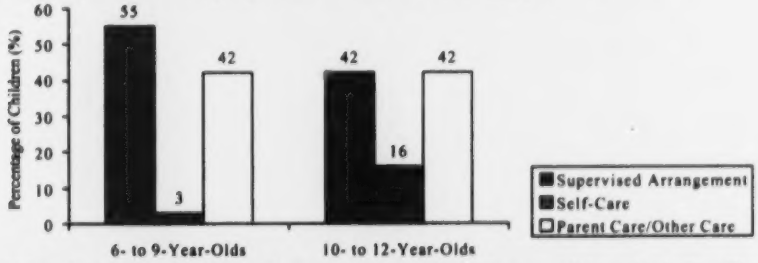
Self-Care

- Three percent of Mississippi's 6- to 9-year-olds are reported to be in self-care as their primary child care arrangement while their mothers are working.
    - ➢ The use of self-care doubles in Mississippi to 6 percent if 6- to 9-year-olds who spend *any* hours in self-care are included.
    - ➢ The use of self-care as a primary arrangement for Mississippi's 6- to 9-year-olds is consistent with the United States as a whole. However, the percentage of this Mississippi age group spending *any* hours in self-care is lower than the national average (6 percent compared with 10 percent).
- Approximately one in six of Mississippi's 10- to 12-year-olds are reported to be in self-care as their primary child care arrangement while their mothers are working.
    - ➢ The use of self-care increases to more than one in five if Mississippi's 10- to 12-year-olds who spend *any* hours in self-care each week are included.
    - ➢ The percentage of Mississippi's 10- to 12-year-olds primarily in self-care while their mothers are at work (16 percent) and the percentage of children spending *any* hours in self-care (22 percent) are lower than the national averages for this age group (24 percent and 35 percent, respectively).
- In Mississippi, as in the country as a whole, the use of self-care increases as children get older.

Parent Care/Other Care

- In Mississippi, there is little difference between age groups in the use of parent care/other care. Slightly more than two out of five 6- to 9-year-olds and 10- to 12-year-olds are reported to be in this form of care.

FIGURE 4. Primary Child Care Arrangements for 6- to 9-Year-Olds and 10- to 12-Year-Olds with Employed Mothers in Mississippi, 1997



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Note: Parent Care/Other Care category includes the proportion of children whose mother did not report using any of the supervised or unsupervised forms of care analyzed here while she worked. For children in this category, parents are arranging their work schedules around the school day to care for their children or using enrichment activities such as lessons or sports.

CHILD CARE EXPENSES[10]

Child care expenses can consume a large portion of a working family's budget, although not all families pay for child care. Some do not use child care, while others look for free child care alternatives. For those that do pay for care, child care expenses can be significant. These data show out-of-pocket expenses for all children under 13 in a family regardless of the type or amount of care the family purchases (box).

Child Care Expenses for All Working Families

- More than half of working families with children under 13 in Mississippi pay for child care. Among these working families paying for care, the average monthly child care expense is $209, or 1 out of every 11 dollars they earn (table 6).
    - ➢ Mississippi's working families tend to pay less in average monthly child care expenses than families in the United States as a whole ($209 per month compared with $286 per month). This difference is not surprising because Mississippi's average monthly earnings for those families paying for care in 1997 was lower than the national average ($3,141 compared with $4,433).
    - ➢ The percentage of Mississippi working families paying for care and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care for those families paying for care are consistent with national averages.

The data presented here

- focus on working families that have at least one child under 13.
- are based on the net out-of-pocket expenses of the National Survey for America's Families respondents and not necessarily the full cost of their children's care. These expenses underestimate the full cost of care if the cost is subsidized by the government or by an employer, or if a portion of the cost is paid by a nonresident parent or by a relative or friend. In addition, these data are based on the combined experiences of many different types of families. All families (for example, families using one hour of care per week and those using 40 hours of care per week; families with one child and those with several children; and families receiving help paying for child care and those that are not) are included in the average child care expenses for Mississippi's working families.
- focus on the earnings of families instead of income. Earnings include only wages, but not other sources of income, such as child support, earned income tax credits, and interest from bank accounts.

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By Age

- More than two-thirds of Mississippi's families with at least one child under 5 pay for care. Among those families paying for care, families with at least one child under 5 spend an average of $233 per month on child care, or approximately 1 out of 10 dollars of their earnings.

    - Mississippi's families with at least one child under 5 are more likely to pay for care than their counterparts nationwide (71 percent compared with 60 percent). These Mississippi families also pay less in average monthly child care expenses when they do pay for care than similar families nationwide ($233 per month compared with $325 per month).

    - No significant difference exists between Mississippi and the United States as a whole in the average percentage of earnings spent on child care by families who have at least one child under 5 and are paying for care.

- Slightly more than one-third of Mississippi's families with only school-age children pay for care. Of those that pay for care, families with only school-age children spend on average $159 on child care, or 7.8 percent of their earnings.

    - No significant difference exists in the percentage of families with only school-age children paying for care in Mississippi and the United States as a whole.

    - Among those families that pay for care, Mississippi's families with only school-age children pay less in average monthly child care expenses than their counterparts nationwide ($159 compared with $224).

    - No significant difference exists between Mississippi and the United States as a whole in the average percentage of earnings spent on child care by families who have only school-age children and are paying for care.

- Mississippi's families with at least one child under 5 are more likely to pay for child care than families with only school-age children (71 percent compared with 34 percent). Families with at least one child under 5 also generally spend more on child care when they do pay for care ($233 per month compared with $159 per month). No significant difference exists, however, between these two groups in Mississippi in terms of the average percentage of earnings spent on child care for those families paying for care.

    - The differences between these two Mississippi groups in terms of the likelihood of paying for care and the average monthly child care expenses when they do pay for care follow national patterns.

    - Although it appears that families with at least one child under 5 in Mississippi spend a higher percentage of their earnings on child care on average than working families with only school-age children, this difference is not significant. This differs from the national pattern in that, nationally, there is a significant difference between these two groups.

By Family Earnings

- Half of Mississippi's families with earnings at or below 200 percent or below the federal poverty -earning families," pay for care. Among those families paying for care, low-earning families spend on average $169 per month on child care, or approximately 1 out of every 8 dollars they earn.

    - The proportion spent on child care is even higher for some low-earning families; fifty percent of Mississippi's low-earning families spend more than 15 percent of their earnings on child care (table 7).

    - Mississippi's low-earning families are more likely to pay for care than similar families nationwide (50 percent compared with 40 percent). These Mississippi families also tend to pay less for that care than their counterparts nationwide ($169 per month compared with $217 per month), and use a lower percentage of their earnings on child care (13.3 percent compared with 15.9 percent).

- More than half of Mississippi's higher-earning families pay for care. These families average $245 a month in child care expenses, or 5.6 percent of their earnings, when they do pay for care.

    - No significant difference exists in the percentage of higher-earning families paying for care in Mississippi and the United States as a whole.

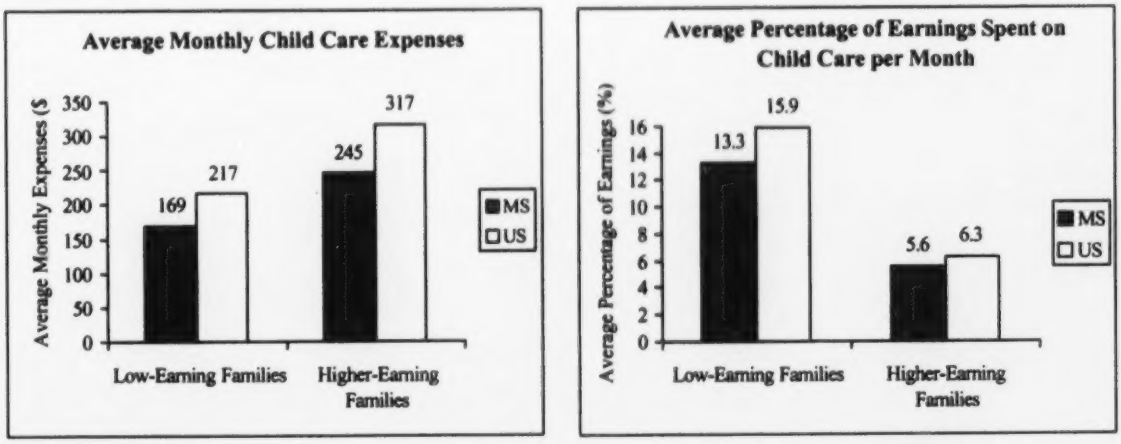
    - Mississippi's higher-earning families have lower average monthly child care expenses than higher-earning families nationally ($245 per month compared with $317 per month). These Mississippi families also spend on average a lower percentage of their earnings on child care (5.6 percent compared with 6.3 percent).

- Mississippi's low- and higher-earning families are equally likely to pay for child care. Low-earning families tend to have lower monthly child care expenses when they do pay for care than higher-earning families ($169 compared with $245), but spend more than twice as much for that care as a percentage of their earnings (13.3 percent compared with 5.6 percent) (figure 5).

    - Mississippi differs from the United States as a whole in that, nationally, low-earning families are less likely to pay for care than higher-earning families, a pattern not seen in Mississippi.

    - The differences in average monthly child care expenses and the percentage of earnings spent on child care between low- and higher-earning families in Mississippi are seen nationally as well.

FIGURE 5. Average Monthly Expenses and Average Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care by Low- and Higher-Earning Families with Children Under 13 in Mississippi and the United States, 1997*



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
*Of those families paying for care.

TABLE 2. Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers in Mississippi and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

		Child's Age		Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level	
	All Children Under 5 %	Younger Than 3 %	3- to 4-Year-Olds %	200 Percent and Below %	Above 200 Percent %
MISSISSIPPI					
Center-Based Care	38	24+	**60+**	34	42
Family Child Care	13	17+	8+	9+	18+
Relative Care	**32**	**38+**	21+	**43+**	21+
Parent Care	**15**	19	**10**	**14**	16
Babysitter/Nanny	**2**	3	0	1	3
(Sample Size)	*(278)*	*(144)*	*(134)*	*(153)*	*(125)*
UNITED STATES					
Center-Based Care	32	22+	45+	26+	35+
Family Child Care	16	17	14	14	17
Relative Care	23	27+	17+	28+	20+
Parent Care	24	27+	18+	28+	21+
Babysitter/Nanny	6	7	6	4	7
(Sample Size)	*(4,853)*	*(2,588)*	*(2,265)*	*(2,296)*	*(2,557)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: Actual percentages may vary on average +/- 3 percentage points from national estimates, +/- 5 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/- 7 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. The NSAF's questions focused on nonparental arrangements and did not include questions about care provided by another parent, care for the child while the parent was at work, or care for the child at home by a self-employed parent. Those respondents not reporting a child care arrangement are assumed to be in one of these forms of care and are coded into the parent care category. **Bold** numbers in the state table indicate that the state estimate is significantly different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.

TABLE 3. Number of Hours in Nonparental Care for Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers in Mississippi and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

			Child's Age		Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level	
	All Children Under 5 %	Mothers Working Full Time %	Younger Than 3 %	3- to 4-Year-Olds %	200 Percent and Below %	Above 200 Percent %
MISSISSIPPI						
No Hours in Care	14	13	17	9	**13**	15
1-15 Hours	**10**	10	**10**	9	13	**7**
16-35 Hours	**17**	12	19	**15**	25+	**10+**
Over 35 Hours	**59**	**65**	**54+**	**67+**	49+	**68+**
(Sample Size)	*(277)*	*(227)*	*(143)*	*(134)*	*(152)*	*(125)*
UNITED STATES						
No Hours in Care	18	17	21+	13+	23+	16+
1-15 Hours	16	12	17	14	16	15
16-35 Hours	25	18	23+	28+	21+	27+
Over 35 Hours	41	52	39	44	40	42
(Sample Size)	*(4,823)*	*(3,399)*	*(2,572)*	*(2,251)*	*(2,290)*	*(2,533)*

Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Notes: Actual percentages may vary on average +/-3 percentage points from national estimates, +/- 5 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/- 7 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. The NSAF's questions focused on nonparental arrangements and did not include questions about care provided by another parent, care for the child while the parent was at work, or care for the child at home by a self-employed parent. Those respondents not reporting a child care arrangement are assumed to be in one of these forms of care and are coded as having no hours in nonparental care. **Bold** numbers in the state table indicate that the state estimate is significantly different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.

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TABLE 4. Number of Nonparental Arrangements for Children Under 5 with Employed Mothers in Mississippi and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

		Child's Age		Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level	
	All Children Under 5 %	Younger Than 3 %	3- to 4-Year-Olds %	200 Percent and Below %	Above 200 Percent %
MISSISSIPPI					
One Arrangement	65	73+	53+	69	61
Two Arrangements	26	21	34	22	31
Three or More Arrangements	9	6	13	9	9
(Sample Size)	*(247)*	*(125)*	*(122)*	*(137)*	*(110)*
UNITED STATES					
One Arrangement	61	65	56	63	60
Two Arrangements	30	30	31	30	31
Three or More Arrangements	8	4+	13+	7	9
(Sample Size)	*(3,974)*	*(2,009)*	*(1,965)*	*(1,812)*	*(2,162)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: These percentages are of children in nonparental child care only. A sizable percentage of children with employed parents, however, are not placed in nonparental child care. See, for example, table 2. Actual percentages may vary on average +/-3 percentage points from national estimates, +/-6 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/-8 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.

TABLE 5. Child Care Arrangement Patterns for Children Age 6 to 12 with Employed Mothers in Mississippi and the United States, by Age Group

	6- to 9-Year-Olds %	10- to 12-Year-Olds %
MISSISSIPPI		
Primary Out-of-School Arrangement[1]		
Supervised Care[2]	55+	42+
Before- and After-School Programs	**14**	9
Family Child Care	5	**1**
Babysitter/Nanny	**2**	3
Relative Care	**33**	**29**
Self-Care	3+	**16+**
Parent Care/Other Care[3]	42	42
(Sample Size)	*(225)*	*(167)*
Any Self-Care[4]	**6+**	**22+**
(Sample Size)	*(225)*	*(166)*
UNITED STATES		
Primary Out-of-School Arrangement		
Supervised Care	55+	35+
Before- and After-School Programs	21+	10+
Family Child Care	8+	5+
Babysitter/Nanny	5	4
Relative Care	21	17
Self-Care	5+	24+
Parent Care/Other Care	40	40
(Sample Size)	*(3,992)*	*(2,753)*
Any Self-Care	10+	35+
(Sample Size)	*(3,998)*	*(2,749)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: **Bold** numbers in the state table indicate that the estimate is different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between age groups within the state. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding.

[1] Primary arrangement is where the child spends the greatest number of hours during the week.

[2] Percentages of individual types of care may not add to total percentage of children in supervised care as a result of

[3] "Parent Care/Other Care" indicates that the respondent reported that the child was not using any of the supervised or unsupervised forms of care analyzed here while she worked. For children in this category, parents are arranging their work schedules around the school day to care for their children or using enrichment activities, such as lessons or sports.

[4] "Any self-care" means that the child regularly spent some time in an unsupervised setting each week, although it was not the form of care in which he or she spent the most hours each week or necessarily while the mother was at work.

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TABLE 6. Child Care Expenses for Working Families with Children Under 13 in Mississippi and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

	Percentage of Working Families Paying for Child Care %		Average Monthly Cost of Care for Families Paying for Care $		Average Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care for Families Paying for Care %	
	MS	US	MS	US	MS	US
All Families	52	48	**209**	286	9.2	9.2
(Sample Size)[1]	*(741)*	*(10,398)*	*(351)*	*(4,934)*	*(351)*	*(4,934)*
Family Type						
Unmarried	53	52+	**163+**	258+	**13.2+**	15.6+
Married	52	47+	**236+**	297+	6.9+	6.6+
Number of Children Under 13						
One Child	51	46+	**185+**	243+	8.0+	8.5+
Two or More Children	54	52+	**231+**	321+	10.3+	9.7+
Age of Youngest Child						
Under 5	**71+**	60+	**233+**	325+	9.8	10.3+
5 or Over	34+	37+	**159+**	224+	7.8	7.5+
Current Monthly Earnings (relative to family size)[2]						
Low Earnings	**50**	40+	**169+**	217+	**13.3+**	15.9+
Higher Earnings	54	53+	**245+**	317+	**5.6+**	6.3+
MKA Education[3]						
High School or Less	**49**	43+	**176+**	228+	11.5+	10.4+
Some College or More	55	52+	**238+**	317+	**7.4+**	8.5+
Parent's Work Status[4]*						
Part-Time	43+	38+				
Full-Time	54+	52+				
Metropolitan Status*						
Nonmetropolitan[5]		47				
Metropolitan	**56**	49				
Race/Ethnicity[6]*						
White/Non-Hispanic	51	49				
Other	54	47				
Average Monthly Family Earnings[7]	*$3,141*	*$4,433*				

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: **Bold** indicates that the state estimate is different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between paired subgroups within the state.

[1]For sample sizes of all subgroups, see Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.

[2]Low earnings are defined as current earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

[3]MKA is the "most knowledgeable adult." Interviews were conducted with the person most knowledgeable about each child. The mother was the "most knowledgeable adult" for a majority of the children in the national sample. For more on "most knowledgeable adult," see Dean Brick et al. 1999.

[4]The work status of the MKA.

[5]There were insufficient observations to allow analysis for state.

[6]The race/ethnicity category has only two categories because of sample sizes.

[7]For those families paying for care.

*Sample sizes are too small to break down data for average monthly cost of care and average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

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TABLE 7. Distribution of Low- and Higher-Earning Families with Children Under 13 by Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care in Mississippi and the United States*

	Low-Earning Families %	Higher-Earning Families %
MISSISSIPPI		
Less than 5%	14	49
Between 5% and 10%	19	31
Between 10% and 15%	16	11
Between 15% and 20%	15	5
Greater than 20%	35	4
(Sample Size)	*(117)*	*(232)*
UNITED STATES		
Less than 5%	17	46
Between 5% and 10%	24	38
Between 10% and 15%	18	11
Between 15% and 20%	14	4
Greater than 20%	27	1
(Sample Size)	*(1,943)*	*(2,967)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Notes: Low-earning families are families with earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Higher-earning families are families with earnings above 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
*Only families who are paying for care.

Notes

1. For randomly selected children in the sample households, interviews were conducted with the person most knowledgeable about each child. Since the mother was the "most knowledgeable adult" for a majority of the children in the national sample, the term "mother" is used here to refer to this respondent. From these interviews, data were collected about the types of care used, the number of hours the child spent in each form of care, and the child care expenses for the family. For more on NSAF survey methods, including the "most knowledgeable

2. The NSAF is a national survey of over 44,000 households and is representative of the noninstitutionalized, civilian population under age 65 in the nation as a whole and in 13 focal states (Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin). The survey focuses primarily on health care, income support, job training, and social services, including child care. Data from the 1997 NSAF are used here to examine child care characteristics for preschool and school-age children. The NSAF collected child care information on a nationally representative sample of children above and below poverty, as well as on a representative sample of children in 12 states (Colorado is not included in these analyses because of the small size of the nonsummer sample for this state. Due to a late addition of Colorado to the ANF project, responses to the child care questions from a large number of Colorado respondents were received during the summer months and did not provide information on nonsummer child care arrangements, which are the focus of this analysis.)
3. This profile only focuses on data that are statistically different from other subgroups within the state or those that are statistically different from the United States Data not presented in the text may or may not be statistically significant. One should be cautious in interpreting the actual point estimates because of the sizes of the samples. For the data on types of child care arrangements and hours in care for children under 5, confidence intervals around the national point estimates averaged +/-3 percentage points, and the confidence intervals around subpopulation point estimates within states were larger (+/- 7 percentage points for our state estimates of age and income subpopulations). For the data on number of child care arrangements, confidence intervals around the national point estimates averaged +/-3 percentage points, and the confidence intervals around subpopulation point estimates within states were larger (+/- 6 percentage points for our state estimates of age and income subpopulations). For confidence interval information for school-age and child care expense data, please see Capizzano, Tout, and Adams 2000 and Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.
4. Sample sizes for children under 5: 511 (MS), 9,571 (US); sample sizes for children between 6 and 12: 629 (MS), 11,947 (US); sample sizes for children under 13: 1,007 (MS), 18,905 (US).
5. This analysis focuses only on children under 5 whose mothers are employed and were interviewed during the nonsummer months. Additionally, the NSAF only asks respondents about regular child care arrangements. Respondents using a complicated array of arrangements that would not qualify as "regular" would not be identified in this study as using a child care arrangement. For more information on types of child care arrangements, number of hours in care, and number of nonparental arrangements for all of the 12 states and the United States, please see *Assessing the New Federalism* Policy Brief No.'s B-7, B-8, B-12.
6. The focus is on the type of primary arrangement in which children under 5 with employed mothers are placed.
7. For this analysis, the hours that each child spent in care across all reported nonparental arrangements were totaled and the child was then placed in one of four categories: "full-time care" (35 or more hours per week), "part-time care" (15 to 34 hours per week), "minimal care" (1 to 14 hours per week) and "no hours in child care" (no regular hours in a nonparental arrangement). This analysis focuses on nonparental arrangements. Although data for hours in care are broken down by full-time care, part-time care, minimal care and no hours of care, this discussion will focus only on full-time care. Table 3 providers data on the remaining categories.
8. To capture child care arrangements, mothers were asked if the child attended any of three separate categories of center-based care: 1) Head Start; 2) a group or day care center, nursery preschool, or prekindergarten program; or 3) a before- or after-school program. Mothers were also asked about babysitting in the home by someone other than a parent and questioned about "child care or babysitting in someone else's home." A child can be cared for by two different providers within the same category. In these cases, the NSAF captures only one of the arrangements and therefore undercounts the number of arrangements used by that parent. Based on comparisons with other national data sources, these undercounts, however, are small.
9. Since school is the arrangement in which children spend the most hours each week, the focus is on child care patterns during the child's out-of-school time. This profile focuses on the category of primary care in which children between the ages of 6 and 12 with employed mothers are placed and the percentage of children in any regular self-care. The child care arrangement patterns of five-year-olds are not discussed in this profile because of

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the complexity of the arrangements for this age group. Age five is a transitional age when some children are in school and others are not. The child care patterns for families with a child in this age group, therefore, can vary substantially depending on whether or not the child is in school. For more information about school-age child care and the methods used to calculate this information, please see Capizzano, Tout, and Adams 2000.

10. For more information about child care expenses in the 12 focal states or the nation as a whole, please see Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.

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